



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
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December 14, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

R Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: SARAH C.

On November 15, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, instructing the Department of Health Services Facility Support Services Division to submit the State Community Care Licensing's and corrective action plan report related to Garfield Medical Center's deficiencies to the State's Medical Board and Board of Registered Nurses.

A complaint investigation was initiated on November 1, 2005, and completed on November 2, 2005. Four Title 22, California Code of Regulation deficiencies were identified and issued to the facility. The deficiencies related to Nursing Services - Policies/Procedures, implementation of policies/procedures in the emergency room, and medical record legibility. Based on the facility's abuse policy and type and manner of the injury, the facility staff suspected child abuse but failed to report the suspicion to appropriate agencies in accordance with their reporting policies.

Garfield Medical Center initially requested a time extension for the plan of corrective action and subsequently submitted a plan that was not acceptable. Thus, a conference call with the executive officers and the facility's attorney was held on December 7, 2005. On December 8, 2005, the facility submitted a revised plan of correction, which has been accepted.

Referrals are being made to the applicable licensing boards regarding two registered nurses and one emergency room physician.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

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